

# ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

## Technical Committee Meeting

### Meeting Summary

February 6, 2007  
Ulster County Office Building  
Kingston, NY

#### Members

<b>Present:</b>	Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
	Barbara Budik**	Saugerties Area Economic Development
	Mircea Catona	UC Department of Public Works
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Nancy Hammond	Town of Lloyd
	Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
	Cindy Lanzetta*	Town of Marlborough
	Bruce Loertscher	Town of Plattekill
	Toni Roser**	Kingston CitiBus
	Cynthia Ruiz**	UC Area Transit
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	Phil Serafino	New York State Thruway Authority
	David Sheeley	UC Department of Public Works

#### Staff

<b>Present:</b>	Sweta Basnet	UCTC
	Bill Tobin	UCTC

#### Others

<b>Present:</b>	Shelly Johnston	Creighton Manning Engineering
	Anne Noonan	Adirondack Trailways
	Dan Shuster	Shuster Associates

+Permanent Voting Member

\*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2007)

\*\*Voting Proxy

^Non-Voting Advisory Member

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10.45 am. Mr. Doyle thanked everyone for attending the meeting [at to the Ulster County Office Building] following the closure of Ulster County Community College due to a water main break. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

#### CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from December 5, 2006 meeting. **Motion to approve by Ms. Hammond, seconded by Ms. Hokanson.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Tobin announced the NYSMPO Annual Conference is scheduled for June 14-15, 2007 at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, New York. Mr. Tobin handed out a 'Save the Date' card. Mr. Tobin mentioned that it will be a typical transportation planning and engineering conference and will be geared toward Policy Board members of MPOs. Mr. Tobin encouraged MPO voting and non voting members to consider attending the conference.

Mr. Tobin handed out a copy of correspondence from the Town of Saugerties. The letter is a request from the Town of Saugerties to expedite the funds for two of the projects recommended by the TIP subcommittee and the Technical Committee. These two projects include the Ulster Avenue Railroad Grade Separation Study and Collector Roads for Railroad Crossing Safety study. Mr. Tobin added that the Committee voted to approve \$300,000 for each study. Mr. Tobin stated that Town of Saugerties would like to move ahead with the studies because of CSX plans for additional track sidings in the Town of Saugerties areas. Mr. Tobin added that, in the absence of NYSDOT at the meeting, the request will be forwarded to the Region 8 office in Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Doyle reminded those in attendance that not knowing how much money the UCTC has to program prevents any effort from accelerating a TIP project. Mr. Doyle added this request may be premature at this time.

Ms. Budik mentioned that that the reason the Town brought up the issue is because the Governor had announced funding for CSX and they have been awarded \$4 million for track siding construction in the Saugerties area in 2008 and 2009. Ms. Budik mentioned that the Town and the Village did not have the information about track sidings when they applied for the funding.

Mr. Doyle mentioned that in context of the TIP, we need to look broader than just rail studies. Mr. Tobin added that we might want to look at the possibility of merging the Tissell Road project with the Kingston Highway and Ulster Avenue grade separation projects.

Mr. Tobin provided an update on the City of Kingston Intermodal Facility Site Location and Conceptual Design Analysis. Mr. Tobin displayed a slide showing the study area and added that a Transit Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled on February 13, 2007 to further discuss the specific sites. At the meeting, the TAC will consider 12-13 intermodal facility sites that have been preliminarily identified and then narrow the list to approximately 5 sites. Mr. Tobin added that the study should be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the public meeting on January 30 was attended by about

20 interested Citizens. Mr. Doyle extended his thanks to the transit providers such as UCAT, Trailways and Citibus, who helped to publicize the meeting. Mr. Doyle added that the issue of passenger rail service in Ulster County emerged at the public meeting. The passenger rail issue has come up in 4 or 5 public meetings in the past year.

Mr. Tobin provided an update on the Saugerties Area Mobility Analysis (SAMA). Mr. Tobin mentioned that a public meeting for the project was held on Thursday, February 1, 2007. Mr. Tobin added that the final report is complete and is available on the UCTC website as well as the Village of Saugerties website.

Ms. Budik added that the SAMA public meeting went well. Ms. Budik explained that the report is dynamic and not set in stone. Ms. Budik added that Mike Campbell explained that the SAMA report is only a guide for implementation. Ms. Budik added that they passed the resolution to accept the study and were pleased with the study's conclusions and recommendations.

Mr. Tobin mentioned that one of the recommendations from the SAMA study was to assemble a project implementation committee. Mr. Tobin added that the effort has to be driven at local level. Mr. Doyle added Ulster Avenue Railroad Grade Separation and Collector Roads for Railroad Crossing projects have been requested by the Town and Village for accelerated implementation. Mr. Tobin added that there are many other projects that need attention and how to prioritize those projects should be considered. Mr. Tobin mentioned that NYSDOT, UC Highway Department, the UC Traffic Safety Board and the Town and the Village must all be involved. Mr. Doyle thanked the Town and the Village of Saugerties, the committee and the consultants for their effort. Mr. Doyle added that the SAMA Report will help provide guidance to some of the overlay zones and access management issues along the Rt. 9W South of the Village.

Mr. Tobin provided an update on the Ulster County Integrated Advanced Train Detection and Arrival Prediction Implementation Plan. Mr. Tobin stated that the kick off meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 8 at the Ulster County Office Building. Mr. Doyle added that Council has concerns that, operationally, things may change drastically in the County with respect to the new CSX tracks and what those changes mean in terms of community impacts. Mr. Doyle added that the Council might want to see if the funding is subject to SEQRA. Mr. Doyle stated that the Council should support the idea of double tracking the West Shore railroad corridor but that community impacts need to be addressed.

Mr. Tobin provided an update on the Non-motorized Transportation Plan development effort. Mr. Tobin mentioned that there was a kick off meeting on Wednesday, January 31. Public meetings are being scheduled for March 28-29, 6-8 pm with locations to be announced. Mr. Doyle praised the consultant, Alta Planning and Design, and asked the members to consider attending the public

meetings. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the contract with Alta has been signed. Mr. Doyle asked those in attendance to contact Mr. Tobin for any information they can share or would like to have addressed about trail issues, walkability issues, safe routes to school, or shoulder issues. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the study is in the data gathering phase and staff anticipates generating approximately 100 projects throughout the County.

Mr. Schaller mentioned that the local NYSDOT office doesn't know about the Share the Roads signs. Mr. Schaller added that NYSDOT is in the process of putting up the bicycle route signs on Route 32 and that it will be waste of funding because they will have to take it off to put the Share the Road sign. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Schaller to contact Russ Robbins or Jim Rapoli at NYSDOT about the issue.

Ms. Basnet provided an update on the Traffic Monitoring Program. Ms. Basnet added that there were 88 counts collected in 2006 and 10 State road counts provided by NYSDOT. Ms. Basnet added that she is working on the identification of count location for 2007. Mr. Tobin mentioned that 2007 counts will be concentrated in the City of Kingston area and the western one-third of Ulster County. Mr. Doyle added that the counts are primarily focused on county roads and that staff is looking for partners to do additional counts particularly in the urbanized areas. Mr. Tobin added that NYSDOT has set standards for counts and Council staff follows those guidelines. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the staff was considering classification counts in the City of Kingston area.

Mr. Tobin mentioned that the UC Commuter Parking Lots Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment report has been finalized. Mr. Tobin added that the comments submitted have been incorporated into the report. The report is available on UCTC website. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the report's focus is on the six primary public parking facilities in Ulster County. The report summarizes each parking facility's daily occupancy and recommends improvements. Mr. Doyle added that this study supports the Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area's (TMA) Congestion Management Program (CMP). Mr. Doyle stated that staff will do the Commuter Parking Facility study on an annual basis.

Mr. Doyle provided a brief update on the Route 209 Corridor Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Plan. Mr. Doyle mentioned that Wilbur Smith Associates of Latham, NY, has been selected as the lead consulting firm for the project. Mr. Doyle stated that the project is not funded using UCTC planning funds but with funding provided through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) using federal STP Flex funds. Mr. Doyle stated that the contract award total is \$400,000. Mr. Doyle added that it was initially programmed at \$500,000 but the project management team decided to set aside funds to have the flexibility to come back to look into issues that were not adequately developed during the study phase.

Mr. Tobin provided an update on the future meetings schedule. Mr. Tobin mentioned that Policy Committee meeting has been scheduled for March 6, 2007. Mr. Tobin added that a quorum is needed and we will need to adopt the SFY 2007-2008 UPWP. Mr. Doyle stated in the absence of a TIP funds allocation, he is concerned about going into the next scheduled Policy Committee meeting without any Technical Committee inputs about which projects have priority. Mr. Doyle stated that a Federal aid allocation for the UCTC was thought to be conveyed by NYSDOT at this meeting.

Mr. Tobin stated that the UCTC is the only MPO in New York State that has not been given a Federal aid allocation or been given an explanation for not receiving a Federal aid allocation. Mr. Tobin added that it is difficult to proceed with the TIP update process without NYSDOT providing the UCTC a Federal aid allocation. Ms. Hammond suggested that the Technical Committee request Chairman Donaldson send a letter to NYSDOT asking for a formal Federal aid allocation. Mr. Doyle asked for a motion to request Chairman Donaldson to send a letter to NYSDOT requesting a Federal aid allocation for the UCTC. **Motion to approve by Ms. Hammond, seconded by Ms. Lanzetta.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tobin provided a brief update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Tobin mentioned that there was a call for projects in September 2006. The Technical Committee approved the project recommendations provided by the TIP Subcommittee. Mr. Tobin added that several of the Subcommittee members have requested a review of TIP projects before it goes to the Technical Committee. Mr. Tobin mentioned that another TIP Subcommittee meeting may be needed before the next Technical Committee meeting to have a thorough discussion on what projects are being proposed for programming. Mr. Tobin added that the review will include the entire list of projects on the TIP. Mr. Doyle added that the Council will send out a general notice about this TIP Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Tobin added that the Technical Committee will pass the recommendations to the Policy Committee for adoption. Mr. Tobin mentioned that this is an additional step since there is not enough time at Technical or Policy Committee Meetings for a thorough discussion about the origin and purpose of projects placed on the TIP.

Mr. Tobin provided an update on the FTA Section 5307 TMA project recommendations. Mr. Tobin mentioned that David Markowitz and Jean Gunsch from NYSDOT Region 8 were invited to the meeting to discuss the list of recommended projects. Mr. Tobin added that Jean Gunsch called to say she would not be able to join us. Mr. Doyle briefly explained what the TMA is all about. Mr. Doyle added that since there are three MPOs involved (Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties), all the three MPOs must agree on what is to be funded. Mr. Doyle added that at this time staff does not have any recommendations from the application review committee.

Mr. Doyle added that there have been concerns about the amount of time it is taking to review the 5307 TMA applications. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the recommendations from TMA staff will come to Technical Committee, which will be passed to the Policy Committee. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the application submitted by Trailways was removed from consideration since it was incomplete. Mr. Doyle mentioned that in addition to the 5307 funds, the County and the city also receives funds for being in an urbanized area. Mr. Doyle added that there has been an annual agreement as to how the funds are split up between the transit providers in that urbanized area. Ms. Ruiz mentioned that Ulster County only represents 12% of the FTA 5307 TMA funds. Ms. Ruiz mentioned that UCAT could provide information about the National Transit Database (NTD) process for those interested. Mr. Doyle added that a presentation on NTD process may be helpful for council staff and Council members.

Ms. Lanzetta asked who is TMA staff? Mr. Doyle mentioned that TMA staff is comprised of the MPO staff from all three MPOs, NYMTC and NYMTC staffs located in NYSDOT Region 8 offices, Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Tobin provided an update on the SFY 2007-2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and discussed the handout that summarizes past year's accomplishments, list of proposed new planning initiatives, list of initiatives that need to be accomplished. Mr. Tobin mentioned that new projects proposed include the Marlborough Hamlet Area Transportation Plan. Mr. Tobin added that the Marlboro study effort is a comprehensive intersection alternatives analysis study for the Route 9W and Western Avenue intersection. Mr. Tobin stated that \$60,000 is proposed in the UPWP to initiate the study effort.

Mr. Doyle briefly talked about Safety Audits. Mr. Doyle mentioned that this idea originated out of discussions with the Technical Committee and Policy Committee. The process involves use of data that comes out of the Traffic Safety Board and Traffic Monitoring Program to look at intersections with accident history. Staff intends to examine the geometry of the intersection and look at a potential fixes for the intersection. Mr. Doyle added that staff would produce a report which could either identify a quick fix or become a larger UPWP or TIP project. Mr. Doyle added that staff will look at how to program some of the long range corridor studies and work with the municipalities in terms of integrating the land use decisions with the transportation decisions. Mr. Doyle added that staff wants to look at the intersection, highway segments and bicycle and pedestrian issues to look at where the improvements are needed. Mr. Tobin added that the project proposed totals \$20,000.

Mr. Tobin mentioned that the staff hopes to wrap up the TIP update process by July 2007. Mr. Tobin added that staff will have a public comment period prior to the adoption of the document.

Mr. Tobin briefly discussed the City of Kingston Uptown Traffic Study in the Stockade area. Mr. Tobin added that the scope for the project is being developed. Mr. Tobin added that \$60,000 has been initially proposed in the current work program. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the staff thinks that \$80,000 is more realistic. Mr. Tobin asked the Committee if they would support increasing the funding level for the study from \$60,000 to \$80,000. Ms. Ruiz mentioned that it was a good idea. Mr. Doyle added that we are beginning to see number of traffic issues develop in the Uptown area and the City of Kingston Mayor mentioned that the City has some federal funds earmarked for streetscape improvements in this area.

Mr. Tobin briefly discussed the budget items from the handout. In addition to increasing the funds for City of Kingston Uptown Traffic Study, Mr. Tobin proposed to increase the funds for the Traffic Monitoring Program from \$22,500 to \$30,000 because of the additional counts that need to be taken in the Uptown area for the City of Kingston Uptown Traffic Study. Mr. Doyle added that this recommendation will go to the March, 2007 Policy Committee meeting for consideration and possible adoption. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the Council has \$190,000 in unprogrammed PL funds.

Mr. Schaller asked if there was any commitment from the City of Kingston with respect to implementing the Uptown Transportation Plan recommendations. Mr. Doyle mentioned that he is not sure if it is good to have the community commit to implementing the study before the study is completed. Mr. Doyle added that at the beginning of the study there is a need to discuss the vision statement and the ground rules. Mr. Tobin added that he is very optimistic about the City of Kingston's enthusiasm for making improvements to the Uptown area.

Mr. Tobin indicated that Mr. Doyle would like to charge more of his time for MPO projects and that the council would use 25% of the time of the new Planner to be hired by the UC Planning Board.

Mr. Doyle mentioned that the Council has been extremely aggressive in terms of the study schedule. Mr. Doyle added that staff doesn't want to undertake any major corridor studies in the upcoming year and would like to have an opportunity to reflect upon studies that have already been done. Mr. Doyle mentioned that staff has accomplished much work in 3.5 years and the Council has been extremely successful in spending the federal funds made available to Ulster County.

Mr. Catona raised the traffic issue at Frank Sottile Boulevard in the Town of Ulster. Mr. Schaller indicated that they are looking at the feasibility of putting a service road behind Blockbuster, Friendlies to take pressure off the nearby intersection. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the traffic issue in the area is due to private driveways and that the Council could help but shouldn't fund the problem that is caused by privately owned and uncoordinated traffic signals.

Mr. Schaller mentioned that NYSDOT is going to rebuild the Rosendale Route 32 Bridge and they are going to close the road for 4 months. The proposed detour route will be Tillson Road down Elting Road. Mr. Schaller talked about requesting NYSDOT to consider putting traffic lights at both ends of the detour at Route 213 and Route 32.

Mr. Schaller mentioned that NYSDOT has turned down the request by the Town of Rosendale for pedestrian crosswalk at the Rosendale Park and Ride Lot.

Mr. Tobin summarized the changes in the budget that includes salary and benefit increase because of Mr. Doyle's time and the additional time for the new Planner, increasing the funding for City of Kingston Uptown Traffic Study and Traffic Monitoring Program. Mr. Tobin handed out a 'before' and 'after' one page budget summary sheet reflecting the proposed changes. Ms. Ruiz mentioned that she supports increase in the staff salary for the MPO. Mr. Doyle asked for a resolution for the changes to pass it to the Policy Committee. **Motion to approve by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Mr. Schaller.**

Mr. Tobin discussed the amendments for the three Transportation Enhancement Projects. Mr. Tobin added that the March 6 Policy Committee will have resolution to approve these amendments into the current TIP at the request of the Town of Gardiner. Mr. Doyle asked for a resolution to move these three Transportation Enhancement Projects to TIP for funding in federal fiscal year 2007. **Motion to approve by Ms. Hokanson, seconded by Mr. Brink.**

Mr. Tobin discussed the requests made by the Village of Ellenville concerning Circle Avenue. Mr. Tobin added that the Village of Ellenville had asked if the Committee will support a resolution to amend the UCTC's Functional Classifications System map to allow Circle Avenue eligible for federal aid. Mr. Doyle stated that this request was not part of the initial changes adopted by the UCTC one year ago. Mr. Doyle mentioned that he would like to have staff look into this request in more detail before entertaining any actions. Mr. Doyle added that getting the functional classification changes approved is a tedious process and the Council is currently working with NYSDOT on the changes initially proposed. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the Village has also requested for the sidewalk project to be funded because their application for paving and sidewalk was dismissed by the TIP Subcommittee. Mr. Doyle added that Council staff will come back to the next meeting to report on the issue.

Ms. Ruiz mentioned that Chairman Donaldson sent out letter to transit agencies to begin the process of Human Service and Public Transportation Coordination Plan as mandated by SAFETEA-LU. Ms. Ruiz mentioned that UCAT is going to have a review performed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in 2008 that requires UCAT to demonstrate that they have a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan with Environmental Justice compliance. Ms. Ruiz added that all the municipalities will be involved and asked questions



about their transportation needs. Ms. Ruiz added that UCAT hopes to implement the new transportation schedule called 'Complementary Schedule' by July 2007. Mr. Doyle mentioned that SAFETEA-LU requires the Council to do a Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan. Mr. Doyle added that this effort will help the Council meet the requirement under SAFETEA-LU. Mr. Doyle stressed the need for coordination between UCAT, Citibus, Trailways and the Council.

#### CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12.27 pm.